

KHUTBA

Friday 18.02.11

English

Loving the Prophet (saws)

The reality of loving the Prophet and its true meaning

The scholars have given different statements regarding the reality of loving the Prophet (saws) and have explained it as follows:

- Following him.
- Supporting him, protecting his Sunnah, imitating him and being fearful of contradicting his Sunnah.
- Continuously mentioning and remembering him.
- Favouring him over oneself.
- Missing him and longing to meet him.

Our Prophet (saws) perfectly combined his beautiful appearance, perfect manners, kindness and good treatment of others. Such perfection was unprecedented and will never be equalled. This is the reason why he deserved our full and undivided love.

The virtues and rewards of this love:

Allah says that which translates as: *“And whoever obeys Allaah and the Messenger – those will be with the ones upon whom Allaah has bestowed favour of the prophets, the steadfast affirmers of the truth, the martyrs and the righteous. And excellent are those as companions.”* (4:69).

Aa’ishah, may Allah be pleased with her, reported that a man came to the Prophet (saws) and said: "O messenger of Allah! You are dearer to me than my family, my children and even myself. Sometimes I am sitting in my home and I remember you, and then I am overwhelmed with the desire to come and see you. When I think about your death and mine; I realise that when you die you will be at the rank of the Prophets in Paradise, but I fear that if I enter Paradise, I will not be able to see you." ‘Aa’ishah, may Allah be pleased with her, continued: "The Prophet (saws) did not answer this man until Allah revealed this verse (given above)." (At-Tabari and others).

Anas bin Maalik, may Allaah be pleased with him, said that a man asked the Prophet (saws):

"When will the (last) hour come?" He (saws) replied: "What have you done to prepare for it?" The man replied: "Nothing, except the love I have for Allah and His Messenger." The Prophet (saws) replied: "You will be (on the Day of Judgment) with those whom you love."

Anas bin Maalik, may Allaah be pleased with him, said: **"We (his companions) never rejoiced at anything more than his words, when he said "You will be (on the Day of Judgment) with those whom you love.""** Anas, may Allaah be pleased with him, continued: **"I love the Prophet (saws), Abu Bakr and ‘Umar, may Allaah be pleased with them both, and I hope to be with them (in the Hereafter) due to my love for them, even if I cannot do (the same amount of righteous deeds) as they do." (Bukhaari, Muslim and others).**

In another narration the man said (in response to the Prophets question of what he had done to prepare for the last hour): **"I did not prepare for it with many prayers, fasting or charity."**

Imam An-Nawawi, may Allah have mercy upon him, said commenting upon this Hadeeth: **"The man’s words mean that he did not perform many optional acts of worship."**

Ibn Mas'ood, may Allaah be pleased with him, and others narrated that a man came to the Prophet (saws) and said: **"O Messenger of Allah! What do you say about a man who loved some people yet did not do what it takes in order for him to be with them (in the hereafter."** The Prophet (saws) replied: **"One will be with whom he loves"** (Bukhari, Muslim and others).

Anas Ibn Maalik, may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet (saws) said: **"One who attains the following three things will taste the sweetness of faith: To make Allah and His Messenger more beloved to himself than anything else; To love a person for no other reason except for the sake of Allah; And to hate to return to disbelief just as much as he would hate to be thrown into fire."** (Bukhari, Muslim and others).

The obligation of possessing and maintaining this love:

Allah says that which translates as: ***"Say [O Muhammad], if your fathers, your sons, your brothers, your wives, your relatives, wealth which you have obtained, commerce wherein you fear decline, and dwellings with which you are pleased are more beloved to you than Allah and His Messenger and Jihad [i.e., fighting] in His cause, then wait until Allah executes His command. And Allah does not guide the defiantly disobedient people."*** (9:24).

Al-Qurtubi, may Allah have mercy upon him, said commenting upon this verse: "This verse is evidence that loving Allah and His Messenger is compulsory, and that this love must take precedence over everything else. This is a ruling on which there is no difference among the scholars".

Allah says that which translates as: **"The Prophet is more worthy of the believers than themselves."** (33:6).

Sahl, may Allah have mercy upon him, said: "Whoever does not feel that the Prophet (saws) has full rights of command over him at all times will never taste the sweetness of following the Sunnah because the Prophet (saws) has said: **"None of you will be a true believer until I am more beloved to him than himself"**.

Anas ibn Malik, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet (saws) said: **"None of you will truly believe until I am more beloved to him than his father, his son and all of mankind."** (Bukhari, Muslim and others)

Examples of the Salaf's love of the Prophet:

A woman from the tribe of Banu Deenaar lost her husband, father and brother in the battle of Uhud. When she was informed of this, she, may Allaah be pleased with her, asked **"But what happened to the Prophet?"** The people replied: **"All praise is due to Allaah, he is as safe as you would wish him to be."** She, may Allaah be pleased with her, replied: **"Show him to me so that I can see for myself"** so the people pointed him out. When she saw him, she said: **"Any disaster besides that of losing you is insignificant."**

‘Abdullaah Ibn ‘Umar, may Allah be pleased with him and his father, asked his father: **"Why do you like Usaamah more than me? I swear by Allah that he never beat me to any battle."** 'Umar, may Allah be pleased with him, replied: **"Because Zayd (Usaamah's father) was dearer to the Prophet (saws) than your father was, and Usaamah was dearer to the Prophet (saws) than you were. Therefore, I favour the love of the Prophet over my love."**

‘Umar Ibn Al-Khattab, may Allah be pleased with him, said to Al-‘Abbas (the Prophet's uncle): **"Embrace Islam! I swear by Allah that it would be more beloved to me if you embraced Islam"**

than if Al-Khattab (his own father) did so." This was because Al-'Abbas was dearer to the Prophet (saws) than Al-Khattab.

Related words of the Salaf:

Ali Ibn Abu Talib, may Allah be pleased with him, said: **"He who saw him, would naturally respect him; he who dealt with him loved him."**

Abdullah Ibn Mas'ood, may Allah be pleased with him, said: **"One should only ask himself about the Qur'an, if he loves the Qur'an then he loves Allah and His Messenger."**

Sufyaan Ath-Thawri, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said: **"To love him (i.e., the Messenger (saws)) is to follow him."**

Sahl Ibn 'Abdullaah At-Tistiri, may Allah have mercy upon him, said: **"He who does not respect the companions of the Prophet (saws) and honour the Prophet's commands does not truly believe. He, may Allah have mercy upon him, also said: "One of the signs of one's love for Allah is loving the Qur'an; A sign of loving the Qur'an is to love the Prophet (saws); A sign of loving the Prophet (saws) is to love his Sunnah; A sign for loving his Sunnah is to love the Hereafter; A sign for loving the Hereafter is to hate this life; And a sign for hating this life is to possess from it just enough provisions to help one reach the Hereafter."**

Hatim, may Allah have mercy upon him, said: **"He who claims three things without fulfilling three requirements is lying; If he claims to love Allah without refraining from His prohibitions; If he claims to love Paradise without spending from his wealth in charity; And if he claims to love the Prophet (saws) without loving the poor."**